

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

1. (Original) An osteoporosis diagnosis aiding apparatus utilizing a panoramic radiograph of teeth, comprising:

image region extracting means for extracting an image of a region including a specified portion in the panoramic radiograph of teeth;

skeleton processing means for finding a skeleton of the extracted image;

line extracting means for extracting only portions parallel to the tilt of the lower edge of the mandible from the found skeleton:

binarizing means for binarizing an image including the skeleton so that lines of the skeleton are separated from the background; and

determining means for determining whether there is a risk of osteoporosis by classifying the binarized lines according to size.

2. (Currently amended) The osteoporosis diagnosis aiding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the determining means classifies the binarized lines into three groups according to size, and determines there is a risk of osteoporosis in a case where there is more than just a single line classified in the largest line group aside from the smallest line group.

3. (Original) The osteoporosis diagnosis aiding apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein

the image extracting means extracts an image of a rectangular region parallel to the tilt of the lower edge of the mandible, and

the line extracting means extracts horizontal portions of the lines.

4. (Currently amended) A program designed to establish processing of the osteoporosis diagnosis aiding apparatus according to claim 1 or 2 ~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~ for a computer system.